

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrical contact, comprising:

first and second contact elements configured to be joined in an electrically common manner, said first and second contact elements having first and second contact beams, respectively, that are oriented to project toward one another in an overlapping pattern.

2. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first and second contact elements each have base portions that are formed separate from one another and are configured to be joined to a common conductive path on a circuit board.

3. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first contact beam includes at least a pair of contact beams formed with a common base portion, said second contact beam extending between said pair of contact beams in an overlapping manner without directly contacting one another.

4. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first and second contact elements include first and second pairs of contact beams oriented to project toward one another in an alternating, interleaved order.

5. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first and second contact elements include first and second separate base portions spaced apart from one another and positioned proximate opposite ends of said contact along a longitudinal axis of said contact.

6. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first and second contact beams are deflectable into alignment in a common plane.

7. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first and second contact beams are oriented to convey current along first and second paths that are aligned in

substantially parallel vertical planes, said first and second paths being directed in opposite directions within said parallel planes.

8. The electrical contact of Claim 1, further comprising first and second sets of said first and second contact elements that are separately formed and configured to be separately joined to a circuit board.

9. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first and second contact elements each have base portions with one of prongs and solder paddles configured to be joined to a circuit board.

10. The electrical contact of Claim 1, wherein said first and second contact elements each are U-shaped with upper and lower arms having outer ends that are configured to engage a circuit board to processor.

11. An electrical socket, comprising:

a housing; and

a plurality of contacts held in said housing, each contact including at least first and second contact elements configured to be joined in an electrically common manner, said first and second contact elements having first and second contact beams, respectively, that are oriented to project toward one another in an overlapping pattern.

12. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first and second contact elements each have base portions that are formed separate from one another and are configured to be joined to a common conductive path on a circuit board.

13. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first contact beam includes at least a pair of contact beams formed with a common base portion, said second contact beam extending between said pair of contact beams in an overlapping manner without directly contacting one another.

14. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first and second contact elements include first and second pairs of contact beams oriented to project toward one another in an alternating, interleaved order.

15. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first and second contact elements include first and second separate base portions spaced apart from one another and positioned proximate opposite ends of said contact along a longitudinal axis of said contact.

16. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first and second contact beams are deflectable into alignment in a common plane and oriented to extend in opposite directions along said common planes.

17. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first and second contact beams are oriented to convey current along first and second paths that are aligned in substantially parallel planes, said first and second paths being directed in opposite directions within said parallel planes.

18. The electrical socket of Claim 11, further comprising first and second sets of said first and second contact elements that are separately formed and configured to be separately joined to a circuit board.

19. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first and second contact elements each have base portions with one of prongs and solder paddles to be joined to a circuit board.

20. The electrical socket of Claim 11, wherein said first and second contact elements each are U-shaped with upper and lower arms having outer ends that are configured to engage a circuit board and processor.